

# City of Seattle

## 2005 Environmental Action Agenda

### A Global City Acting Locally

## Clean Air & Climate Protection

### In Our Community

☼ Create the Mayor's Green Ribbon Commission on Climate Protection with business, environmental, government and community leaders to produce Seattle's Climate Action Plan

☼ Meet City Light's zero-net greenhouse gas emissions goal by:

- Conserve 7.25 average megawatts of energy through energy efficiency measures in homes and businesses
- Conduct a Neighborhood Power Project in the University District to improve energy efficiency in residences and small businesses
- Obtain offsets to compensate for remaining City Light GHG emissions

Track: SCL  
customer energy  
conserved & use

☼ Help lead a regional effort to promote clean cars and pass state legislation to strengthen vehicle emission standards

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☼ Expand major transportation alternatives by providing timely permitting of Monorail projects, supporting Sound Transit with surface street improvements and Northlink engineering analysis, and completing streetcar design and environmental work

☼ Add to the Urban Trails system by completing the Burke-Gilman Trail link from the Ballard Locks to NW 60th Street and by continuing construction of the Chief Sealth Trail

☼ Improve bicycling opportunities through creation of a Bicycle Master Plan to improve bicycle access and amenities

☼ Develop strategic plans to improve pedestrian, bike, transit, car and freight access in SE Seattle, Center City, South Lake Union, and Northgate by evaluating the transportation needs and opportunities and prioritizing City investments

Track: Miles of  
designated bike  
lanes

☼ Evaluate transit speed and reliability improvements resulting from improvements implemented under the Urban Village Transit Network

☼ Collaborate with the Woodland Park Zoo on a Way to Go to the Zoo program to improve access to the Zoo while protecting the neighborhood from impacts of cars and parking

☼ Reduce the number of employees who drive alone to work by extending the One Less Car Challenge to anyone who commutes to Seattle by SOV, including offering an additional incentive of \$250 to any SOV commuter who sells their car and stops driving to work

☼ Target marketing to promote busing, biking, walking, and other non-SOV transportation modes in Center City neighborhoods

☼ Improve incentives for City employee non-SOV work trips particularly outside the central business district

Track:  
Improved  
transit speed  
as a percent of  
posted speed  
limit

## In Our Operations:

- ☼ Continue to meet or exceed Clean, Green Fleet Plan goals including:
  - Purchase alternative fueled (natural gas) or advanced technology (hybrid) vehicles for 50% of the sub-compact cars replaced in 2005
  - At Seattle Center convert all diesel vehicles to B20 (20% biodiesel) and replace 3 gas scooters with electric units
  - Add 4 bio-diesel fuel sites to enable more City diesel vehicles to use B20 (20% bio-diesel fuel)
  - Reduce fuel use by 2% from 2003 levels through employee training, operational efficiencies and increased use of alternatives such as teleconferencing, car-pooling, electric bikes etc to reach target of 2.3 million gallons of fuel used per year
  - Launch the successful Park's Department anti-idling campaign at the Seattle Department of Transportation
- ☼ Reduce hazardous materials used in producing and distributing electricity

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION MEASURES THAT INFORM OUR ACTIONS

- ☼ **Days with good air quality** Number of days each month of good, moderate, unhealthy for sensitive groups, and unhealthy air quality based on maximum concentrations of fine particulates
- ☼ **Greenhouse gas emission reduced by City government**, Calculate tons of GHGs avoided through energy conservation, City Light mitigation projects, waste management (recycling), fleet improvements etc.
- ☼ **Prevalence of asthma in Seattle**

## Healthy Habitat & Clean Water IN OUR COMMUNITY

- ☼ Reduce water use by residential and commercial customers by 1% through efficiency improvements
  - Conduct 12 or more engineering water audits of targeted businesses
  - Recruit 20 or more businesses to implement financial incentive projects
  - Recruit 5,000+ customers to install high-efficiency clothes washers and install these washers in the Seattle Housing Authority High Point and Rainier Vista redevelopments
  - Recruit multi-family property owners and managers to install ultra low flow toilets in 6,000 or more apartments or condominium units
  - Recruit 100+ low-income group homes and 400+ low-income single family home owners to install ultra low flow toilets
- ☼ Implement the City's Restore Our Waters Strategy to restore and enhance shorelines, control storm water flows that destroy habitat, and support citizens who are working in their own neighborhoods
  - Restore shorelines - projects planned to be completed, pending funding, include:
    - 400 feet of shoreline at Magnuson Park
    - 700 feet of shoreline at Rainier Beach Park
  - Begin removing a fish passage barrier on Taylor Creek
  - Identify priority locations for improving shoreline habitat and access in the Lake Union/Ship Canal area and develop mechanisms for shoreline property owners to contribute to restoration at these priority location to offset their project

Track: Linear  
feet of lake,  
creek, and  
Puget Sound  
shorelines  
restored

impacts

- Provide 'Salmon in Schools' (water quality, habitat, lifecycle, etc.) programming to 4th and 5th graders, focusing on underserved communities
- Build a new Natural Drainage System in the Pinehurst neighborhood serving 49 acres to improve water quality and salmon habitat in Thornton Creek
- Invest in 8 projects to improve water quality including preventing combined sewer overflows into Lake Union and Lake Washington and developing a stormwater settling channel and water feature in Northgate
- Install 1,500 linear ft of bioswales at various sites to filter rainwater through vegetated drainage depressions rather than into storm drains
- Develop rainwater harvesting codes allowing rainwater use to reduce peak stormwater flows and reduce drinking water use for irrigation, toilets etc. while protecting human health
- Complete planning and begin designing projects in the South Park basin that will reduce local flooding and provide stormwater quality treatment
- Distribute 2,500 rain barrels to reduce the amount of drinking water used for landscapes and lawns and to reduce stormwater flow

☼ Identify and pursue opportunities to restore habitat along the Elliott Bay shoreline as part of Central Waterfront redevelopment projects

☼ Purchase about 100 acres of land along the Skagit River and its tributaries to protect habitat for salmon and bull trout

☼ Implement measures such as managing flows, restoring habitat, adding woody debris to enrich habitat to protect threatened Chinook salmon on the Skagit and Tolt Rivers

☼ Continue implementing the Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan including:

- acquiring 115 acres of land along the lower Cedar River,
- protecting and restoring stream, riparian and upland habitat
- completing environmental review and permitting for a Sockeye Hatchery

Track: Skagit  
River egg/  
migrant ratio

## IN OUR OPERATIONS

☼ Reduce irrigation water use by 20% at golf courses by reducing irrigated areas, upgrading to computerized, weather-based systems, and repairing leaks

☼ Incorporate improved environmental protection requirements into City construction specifications

☼ Systematically evaluate the social, economic and environmental aspects of Seattle Public Utility's (SPU) proposed capital projects

☼ Improve operational practices by developing standard procedures and best practices, establishing performance targets and reviewing implementation through a systematic approach at SPU

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION MEASURES THAT INFORM OUR ACTIONS

☼ Stormwater flow

☼ Water quality

Programs for regular monitoring of both stormwater flow and water quality will be developed over the next two years and incorporated here.

☼ Percent of shoreline that is armored

## Sustainable Forests

### IN OUR COMMUNITY

🌳 Restore the City's forested Park lands through the Green Seattle Partnership between the City and the Cascade Land Conservancy

- Start restoration process on 60 acres of forest land in 10 parks
- Launch fundraising and public awareness campaign
- Collaborate with the Seattle Urban Nature Project to update the urban forest mapping system for use in prioritizing, documenting, and monitoring restoration projects
- Develop urban forest restoration best practices guide to assist community stakeholders, City staff and contractors in effective restoration efforts

Track: Forest  
acreage  
restored

🌳 Re-green our neighborhoods

- Work with neighborhoods and business districts to plant at least 1,500 new trees including by providing Neighborhood Matching Fund grants to 40 community groups

### IN OUR OPERATIONS

🌳 Improve forest conditions and environmental quality in the Cedar River Watershed by removing an additional 20 miles of logging roads

🌳 Implement a landscape, horticulture and forestry best practices training and certification program in the Parks Department

🌳 Reduce the City's copier and printer paper use by 15% by the end of 2005 and 30% by the end of 2006, and purchase only 100% recycled printer/copier paper to save 6,200 trees, and increase City paper recycling

🌳 Increase purchase of wood products that are Forest Stewardship Council certified as sustainably-harvested to a total of 5% of all wood used for maintenance and repair based on retail value

Track: Amount  
of paper used  
and amount  
saved

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION MEASURES THAT INFORM OUR ACTIONS

🌳 Overall forest health- report % of Parks Department forest that is ecologically healthy based on the Seattle Urban Nature Project and Seattle forestry staff criteria. (Parks/GSI)

🌳 Canopy cover

## Healthy & Connected Neighborhoods

### IN OUR COMMUNITY

#### Neighborhoods

🌳 Implement the Neighborhood Business District Strategy to improve pedestrian and transit use, support jobs growth and enhance housing opportunities in urban centers and urban villages by increasing flexibility for meeting open space requirements, reducing or eliminating parking requirements, and establishing a maximum area for paved parking lots

🌳 Implement policies to support housing, job and transportation goals in the City Center, the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods by

- Revising codes to allow height and density increases in downtown zones

- Eliminating parking requirements
  - Encouraging development of more pedestrian-friendly streets and open spaces
  - Encouraging a wide range of housing types and income levels
  - Preparing sustainable planning and development strategies for key districts likely to see the most change - Waterfront, South Lake Union and South Downtown
- ☼ Create Urban Sustainability Guidelines identifying development goals and corresponding planning and design objectives to create a more livable city
  - ☼ Modify zoning in South Lake Union, First Hill, Capital Hill, and the University District to reduce parking requirements, revise open space requirements, and increase height limits to revitalize housing and economic development
  - ☼ Collaborate with developers to create two Green Streets projects to increase plantings and pedestrian amenities
  - ☼ Fund community-based environmental projects, especially in traditionally underserved parts of the city, through programs such as the Neighborhood Matching Fund
  - ☼ Through the Clean and Green Seattle Program, clean up and add trees and plants in a different neighborhood each month
  - ☼ Achieve Audubon certification in environmental planning for City golf courses
  - ☼ Add four new parks to the Pesticide Free Parks program
  - ☼ Purchase 9 parcels of open space serving urban villages and urban centers focusing on neighborhoods near the City Center
  - ☼ Restore two miles of trails with an emphasis on Golden Gardens and Seward Parks
  - ☼ Complete a P-Patch community garden at Hiawatha Place in the Central area
  - ☼ Clean up contaminated sites in the Dallas Avenue South neighborhood and evaluate options for cleaning up the contaminated sediments

Track: Open  
space per 100  
residents in  
urban centers  
and urban  
villages

#### Homes & Businesses

- ☼ Encourage more people in Seattle to take care of the environment through a multi-media campaign including a PBS documentary, community action guide, website, and speaker series
- ☼ Help restaurants and bakeries improve environmental quality and save money through targeted outreach and services to business owners and operators with limited English
- ☼ Explore development of a "sustainable business park" in Seattle's industrial area to attract and promote green building and clean energy companies and jobs
- ☼ Participate in the regional economic development effort lead by the Puget Sound Regional Council to grow jobs in the clean energy and environment business sector
- ☼ Develop guides to City services to assist businesses in the health care and restaurant industries save money and improve businesses processes through resource efficiency and pollution prevention
- ☼ Develop an action plan for fostering job growth in the sustainable building industry
- ☼ Partner with community members to conduct Natural Yard Care Neighbors projects in 4 neighborhoods to promote natural yard care practices to reduce pesticide and fertilizer use and enhance soil health
- ☼ Partner with local retailers and King County to provide discounts for less toxic yard care products

☼ Increase recycling rate to make progress toward 60% goal by:

- Assist 5 large businesses reduce their solid waste generation by providing on-site assessments to identify waste prevention, reduction and recycling opportunities
- Increase curbside commercial recycling to help businesses meet new restrictions on recyclable paper, cardboard and green waste in commercial garbage
- Launch a compostable food scraps recycling program for businesses
- Provide recycling collection in all Park's buildings and pilot test recycling collection in limited outdoor park locations
- Increase vendor participation in pre-consumer food waste recycling at Seattle Center facilities

Track:  
Percent of  
solid waste  
recycled

### Built Environment

☼ Promote sustainable building in the private sector by:

- Providing technical assistance to developers from project design to construction
- Helping to create a non-profit Sustainable Development Center to offer technical assistance to the building community,
- Encourage sustainable residential housing through financial incentives and outreach
- Evaluate options for a green building incentive and to facilitate the permit process
- Increase the number of green roofs through incentives, demonstration projects, and public information

☼ Revise regulations governing protection of Environmentally Critical Areas such as steep slopes, wetlands and stream corridors to improve urban environmental quality

## IN OUR OPERATIONS

☼ Design the Northgate Civic Center, Van Asselt community center, and the Fire Levy Joint Training Facility to achieve LEED sustainable building certification

☼ Continue to increase City purchase and use of environmentally-friendly products such as certified wood, and to reduce City use of pesticides and products containing persistent toxins

☼ Incorporate sustainable building features into the design of Fire Station 10 including reducing PBTs (persistent, bioaccumulative toxics) in building materials

☼ Reduce PBTs in including evaluating the use of non-PVC pipe in Parks' irrigation and drainage systems and improving recycling of rechargeable batteries that contain cadmium and lead

☼ Green four new affordable housing projects receiving a total of \$6M in City funds by requiring sustainability plans based on the SeaGreen guide and providing training and outreach

☼ Continue to assess the distribution of City environmental programs and services across Seattle neighborhoods; take action to improve equity in at least one area

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION MEASURES THAT INFORM OUR ACTIONS

☼ New households and new jobs citywide and within urban villages and centers

☼ How are people getting around (transit/ferry, walk/bike, carpool, SOV)

☼ Incidence of obesity in Seattle